



# Wilmington Journal.

WILMINGTON, N. C.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1875.

## FIXED BAYONETS.

When President Grant saw that his party was not prepared to endorse Sheridan's dispatch and conduct, and that his Cabinet was about to dissolve, he sent to Congress a Special Message, a patch-work of apology and defiance, in which by a military "feint," he pretended to give way before the popular indignation. In this Message he said:

"I am well aware that any military interference by the officers or troops of the United States with the organization of a State Legislature or any of its proceedings, or with any civil department of the government, is repugnant to the spirit of the Constitution. I can conceive of no case in involving rebellion or insurrection where such interference by authority of the General Government ought to be permitted or be justified."

Declarations like these saved the threatened rupture of his Cabinet, and caused some of the Northern papers to excuse his conduct.

But a few days elapsed after these apologetic disclaimers before his honesty in making them was put to the test. Governor Ames, of Mississippi, desired the removal of a Sheriff, and called upon the President for troops. And although the President had promised Congress and the country that he would only use the army in cases involving "rebellion and insurrection," he ordered his soldiers to interfere with the civil department of the Government, not only when the Courts were open, but in the very presence of the Court. The facts are now fully developed as follows: It seems that there was a Constitutional question as to the legality of the election, some three weeks ago, of A. J. Flanagan, as Sheriff of Warren county. The negro Crosby, whose failure to procure sufficient bonds led to the demand for his removal, and whose determination to hold his office in spite of law produced the attack upon Vicksburg, by his infatuated colored adherents, had resigned, under compulsion, as he asserted. Flanagan had been elected in his place, had given bonds which the Supervisor accepted and was duly installed in office. But Ames' Legislature, in the recent session, had repealed the law authorizing special elections in certain cases, and there was therefore a legal question as to the validity of the choice of the new Sheriff, proper for judicial settlement. This was the situation, peaceful and decorous and involving only the technical construction of a point of law, in which Federal troops were called to interfere. The manner in which it was done is a bold affront to the idea of civil government. Gov. Ames, having determined that Flanagan's certificate of election from the proper civil authorities was invalid, telegraphed Grant for troops to turn out the Sheriff. The President transmitted his order to Sheridan, and the Lieutenant-General forthwith directed his subordinates at Vicksburg to do the will of Ames. The whole affair was conducted with the simple and open directness of absolute law. Ames only expressed the wish that a certain Sheriff should be dispossessed of his office without a judicial proceeding, and the President promptly sent troops to carry out the design.

This interference though less great in its consequences than the dispersion of the Louisiana Legislature, it is quite as alarming. Coming so soon after Grant's apparent apology for the other, it is even more significant and disregardful of public sentiment. It demonstrates that he intends to make and unmake Governors and Legislatures and to force a determination which shall hold municipal and county offices. And to what end?

**FEW VOICES OF APPROVAL.** It is a remarkable fact that the President, in his late course toward Louisiana, has received the unqualified approval of only one important body of Republicans, the Connecticut Republican Convention just held. This body declared "That we have undiminished confidence in the integrity and patriotism of President Grant; we heartily endorse his recent special message to the Senate on the Louisiana question and the principles contained therein." Of the various Republican Legislatures in session, not one has given the President words of approbation, and a dispatch announcing that the Kansas Republican caucus has resolved to endorse him, does not constitute an important exception. Republican leaders and clubs throughout the country either dodge the subject or adopt resolutions praising the President in terms so faint that they amount to condemnation. Heretofore when the President, as the head of the Republican party, took my important step, especially in Southern affairs, it has been the custom of his political friends in Legislatures and other associations to support him unhesitatingly. At every former crisis he could always rely on these expressions of confidence. But at this, the most critical juncture of his official life, he is cheered by few approving voices, and those almost exclusively belonging to the men who hold office under him. The Louisiana outrages are as warmly denounced by fair-minded Republicans as by Democrats, and this is one of the most encouraging signs of the future.

Logan's speech on Louisiana is to be sent as a fire-bird into the West, and the Senator is having it amply illustrated with cuts of skull and cross-bones, just as druggists label a bottle of poison.

Many of us have cause to rejoice that we are not old Romans. In these days "the debtor could be taken home by the creditor and kept sixty days, fettered in iron not exceeding fifteen pounds in weight; at the end of which time, if the debt remained unpaid, he could be brought before the people of three market days, on the last of which his body could be cut into pieces according to the number of creditors; or, if they preferred, he could be sold into foreign slavery."

## HO! FOR THE WEST.

Beyond all question the two great matters of interest to Wilmington are their connection by rail with the Mississippi and Ohio Valleys, and the improvement of the River and Bar. We are glad to believe that both are in a fair way of early solution. And in this event we see no reason to doubt the rapid increase in our population, commerce and wealth. With an unbroken line of communication or Cincinnati, Louisville and Nashville, and with vessels drawing eighteen or twenty feet of water loading at our docks, we may look for a populous and prosperous city.

For this consummation we shall labor in season and out of season. If our own people cannot help themselves, we will gladly help capitalists from abroad who are both willing and able. Nor do we expect these two to invest their money from motives of patriotism. They expect and we hope, that North Carolina and Wilmington are incidentally benefited.

It is a matter of congratulation that our friends in the Western portion of the State are becoming fully alive to the prospects of a railroad connection with our port, and begin to realize that the Carolina Central Railway offers the best, surest and easiest opportunity of a railroad to the coast. They see a live corporation, even during the present financial pressure, under which all the unfinished roads have succumbed, gradually extending its Western terminus, and stretching out its arms beyond our mountain barriers. So far as Wilmington is concerned, it not only offers the quickest but the only connection which it has any prospect of making. In its connection and successful operation, Wilmington's future is linked more closely than in any and all of her other links of internal improvements.

It is with pleasure that we publish the following letter from our friend, who has given such attention to the matter as entitles his views to the consideration of those interested, and we know that it will receive their attention:

### A FEW SUGGESTIONS TO MR. MATTHEWS AND COL. FREMONT—NEW ROUTE TO THE WEST.

*Mrs. Editor:*—Recent events have directed the attention of our people to the above gentlemen, and while much is expected of them, it is a pleasure to think they show themselves "equal to the occasion." Our people are much in the condition of King Richard, who offered his kingdom for a knight to win a battle for an orange horse, and think both parties to the transaction will be benefited.

In Nebraska Algernon Sydney Padlock has been elected to succeed Senator Tipton. He is about forty years of age, and is distantly related to Gideon Wells and General and Senator Sherman.

Mr. Padlock has been a resident of Nebraska since 1856, living at Fort Calumet, from which place he removed to Omaha a few years ago, where he resided until last year, when he removed to Beatrice. He was appointed Governor of Wyoming in 1868, but withdrew owing to there being no apportionment to defray the expense of the Territorial Government.

He is a Conservative Republican. His election was secured mainly as a compromise between the opponents of the strongest Republican candidate, General Thayer.

The Democrats of these States have just cause to congratulate themselves upon the result of their Senatorial elections.

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## MARTIAL LAW.

The New York *Journal of Commerce*, which is the organ of no party, but a mouthpiece of the commercial classes, speaking in their interest, and therefore in the interests of wise and stable government, discusses in an able manner the rumor that the Republican caucus committee of the House, considering what is to be done to re-establish the party's lost ascendancy in the South, will recommend the declaration of martial law in Louisiana.

Meers, Graham, Mills and Jernigan were made Senate branch of the joint committee to investigate affairs of all the roads in the State in which the State was interested.

Mr. Cooke, of Franklin, on Friday introduced a bill to repeal the law which allows liens to be made to merchants on crops before said crops are made, the repeal to go into effect on the 1st of January, 1876.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 11 o'clock. By Mr. Bennett, a bill in relation to Town Creek in Brunswick county. Recommended.

On motion of Mr. Oakman, House resolution concerning State railroads was taken up. The Senate amendment with the report of the committee were read, and the report of the House committee refusing to concur therein was read.

On motion of Mr. Walker, of Richmond, a bill to incorporate the Western North Carolina Baptist Female College passed its readings.

On motion of Mr. Walker, of Richmond, a bill to prohibit the sale of liquors within three miles of Richmond county court house was taken up and passed its readings.

## LOUISIANA—THE REMEDY.

Mr. Charles Francis Adams, Jr., writes to *The Nation* as follows concerning the Louisiana problem: "But what is to be done to-day? One thing I can see, and only one, can be done. Let the Conservative Legislature of Louisiana give solemn notice to the whole world that they are now subjected to force by a usurpation, every act of which is null and void, and shall be so treated hereafter. Let them publicly declare that so surely as the day of relief comes, every debt shall be repudiated, every tax issued. Let them in their own name publish to the world the existing administration of the State as a fraud, by no act of will the people of Louisiana be bound, as soon as they are restored to the control of their own affairs. This one solemn notice given, let the Conservative Legislature hold up its hands in submission and disperse; the rest may be safely left to the people of the whole country. Two years is a short time, when at the expiration of it relief is sure. During that brief time let no Conservative be so much as to speak of this country as most anxious to get its yoke off. Let them simply, and vigorously for the completion of Louisiana go to the polls or enter a legislative hall; the worse their oppression, the better. Let them simply submit. They need not fear that a day of reckoning will not come; and then the Government of the United States and all public opinion will justify them in treating their present rulers as criminals and each and every of their official acts as abominable and ab initio null and void."

## Mr. Meers' speech in the negro.

Mr. Meers' speech in the negro, in theory, is the only difference between him and his brother, George Meers, who is a Methodist, is, "that Bob believes in falling from grace, but never does fall, and he (Zeb) don't believe in falling from grace, but is always falling."

A gentleman, while walking in his garden, caught his gardeners asleep in their wicker chairs. He sent his son to his home to call him, and when he came, he said, "I have such a staggered walk that I cannot enjoy the light of the sun. It was that reason exactly," said the gardeners, "that I sleep up into the shade."

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## Reported Murder.

We hear rumors of a fearful murder just in Brunswick county on Sunday, the victim having been, as alleged, two colored men, but could get no particulars.

## The Ross Scarborough.

The above is the name of a beautiful little pilot boat, built at Smithville and launched last week. She is 22 feet long and two feet wide, having a flat bottom, and she is painted with floating colors, and though she was a fast sailer.

## Bad Times.

We talk a lot about times here but a gentleman who has recently visited both Charlotte and Augusta, says that we don't know what they really are. Business in those cities seems to be very much prostrated, although the recent slight upward movement in cotton has seemed to reanimate things somewhat.

## Rev. C. M. Payne.

This Reverend gentleman, with his wife, were on the *Brookslee's Review*, at that place last week. We are sorry to learn that Mr. Payne, who has been suffering for a month or more from an enlargement of one of the bones in the immediate vicinity of his eyes, which has seriously effected the use of them.

## Revolving Savings Bank.

The question is often asked us by our colored depositors, as to the probability of their receiving back any portion of the money by them deposited in the branch office of that bank which recently closed in this country. It is agreed to be very doubtful, and would not hear to the proposition to act as Chairman. Some who were present wondered within themselves if G. Z. had any private reasons for not being an active part. However, it is agreed that he should be selected, himself on the platform, at the meeting of the Chairman, but during the delivery of Heaton's speech he retired to a dressing room on the right of the stage just as that speaker commenced his address, and when a protracted discussion of the case had been had, the train will be dashing through to Charlotte, by night as well as by day.

## RADICAL MASS MEETING.

### It Endorses Grant in his Louisiana Policy, Condemns Cantwell for Contending Grant, and Hubs for Sheridan and His Bayonets.

In pursuance of the announcement made through the circulation of numerous high sounding, belle-voile hand-bills, a special meeting of the Wilmington Radicals met in the City Hall at 8 o'clock last evening, and resolved themselves into an organization for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the action of Grant's military in the late Louisiana troubles.

By the attraction of a band of music and the cheering of the participants, in such occasions, as the Hubbs was finally about one-fourth full. The great army of Radical voters seemed to have other fish to fry, although it seems that the negro goes to a Radical political meeting with the same readiness that he eats his hog and hominy when the latter comes.

The meeting was called to order and J. M. Wise was made permanent Chairman. J. C. Hill, (ed.), being afterwards elected Secretary.

G. Z. French was put in nomination and carried to be elected president, and would not hear to the proposition to act as Chairman. Some who were present wondered within themselves if G. Z. had any private reasons for not being an active part. However, it is agreed that he should be selected, himself on the platform, at the meeting of the Chairman, but during the delivery of Heaton's speech he retired to a dressing room on the right of the stage just as that speaker commenced his address, and when a protracted discussion of the case had been had, the train will be dashing through to Charlotte, by night as well as by day.

## A Fateful Tragedy.

We regret to learn that on Tuesday morning, about 8 o'clock, Mrs. Fannie Blackman, wife of Mr. Ervin Blackman, residing on Eighth street, was so severely injured by a fall from the stairs, that she died from the effects of it yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Blackman, who was formerly an engineer on one of the railroads, but who is now employed by Messrs. Wilson & M. S. Wilson, a general store and hardware, had come home to the scene, when it was found that a mass of hard clay, weighing something like eight or ten tons, had fallen on the track, which it had sprung some two feet from the rails. Four sharp whistles were sounded, and when the train, which it had sprung on its way, had stopped, so great was the damage, that the train will be dashing through to Charlotte, by night as well as by day.

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